

FOREST ORDER

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS**

Bear Attractant Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 551 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited in all developed recreation sites, including campgrounds and picnic areas, on the Parks, Hahns Peak-Bears Ears, and Yampa Ranger Districts of the Routt National Forest, State of Colorado, and the Brush Creek-Hayden, Laramie, and Douglas (Laramie Peak Unit) Ranger Districts of the Medicine Bow National Forest, State of Wyoming (the “Restricted Areas”). Attached, and hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A, are Definitions of terms used in support of the Prohibitions.

This Order is necessary to minimize adverse interactions between bears and humans.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Possessing or storing food or refuse anywhere except in bear-resistant containers or inside vehicles in sealed containers while in the Restricted Areas. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(cc)
EXCEPT WHEN:
 - a. The food or refuse is “acceptably stored” or “acceptably possessed” during daytime hours;
 - b. The food or refuse is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being field dressed, being transported, being prepared for acceptable storage, or is “acceptably stored” during nighttime hours; or
2. Possessing, storing or transporting any bird, fish, or other animal, or parts thereof, except in bear-resistant containers or inside vehicles in sealed containers while in the Restricted Areas. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s)
EXCEPT WHEN:
 - a. “Acceptably stored” or “acceptably possessed” during daytime hours;
 - b. Being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, being field dressed, being prepared for acceptable storage, or is “acceptably stored” during nighttime hours; or
3. Hanging or suspending animal carcasses within 100 yards of the Restricted Areas. 36. C.F.R. § 261.58(s).

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

(2) Any Federal or State officer placing baits to capture animals for research or management purposes as part of their official duties.

This Order will remain in effect for **five (5) years** from the date signed, unless amended or rescinded.

Executed in Laramie, Wyoming this **15th day of June, 2020**.

RUSSELL BACON Digitally signed by RUSSELL
BACON
Date: 2020.06.15 15:44:22 -06'00'

RUSSELL M BACON
Forest Supervisor
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Thunder Basin National Grassland

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559 and 3571

EXHIBIT A

Definitions:

1. “Restricted Areas” include developed recreation sites which have been improved or developed for recreation by the Forest Service for recreation such as, but not limited to, campgrounds, trailheads, guard stations, cabins and/or picnic areas.
2. “Food and Refuse” means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water, baled hay, or hay cubes without additives) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal or any refuse which might attract bears. It includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers and any item that may attract bears such as, but not limited to, pet and bird foods/feeders, cooking utensils and equipment, cooking grills, personal care products, and coolers.
3. “Acceptably stored” means:
 - a. Stored in bear-resistant container certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program. A container may be certified by the local District Ranger or their designated representative(s) if it meets the IGBC criteria, or
 - b. Stored in a closed, locked vehicle where the storage compartment is constructed of solid, non-pliable material that, when secured, will have no openings, hinges, lids, or coverings that would allow a bear to gain entry by breaking, bending, tearing, biting, or pulling with its claws (any window in the vehicle must be closed), or
 - c. Suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points and four feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole, or
 - d. Stored within a hard-sided residence, building, or storage container subject to the terms and conditions of a special-use authorization or operating plan, or
 - e. Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.
4. “Acceptably possessed” means:
 - a. Possessed or attended during daytime by a person(s) that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food, refuse, or item.
5. “Daytime” means ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Mountain Time.
6. “Nighttime” means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, Mountain Time.
7. “Field dressing” is a necessary step in preserving meat from animals harvested in the wild. It is an active process of removing the internal organs of hunted game and processing for consumption at a later time. Field dressing must occur as soon as possible so it does not become an attractant and cannot be left attended during the field dressing process in developed campgrounds or picnic areas.